

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, as amended, remain herein. Claims 4-11 have been canceled. Support for the amendments to claims 1-3 may be found, for example, in applicants' specification in Figs. 1, 2, 9 and their corresponding descriptions.

1. The title has been amended, mooted the objection thereto.
2. Claim 1 has been amended, mooted the objection thereto.
3. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kondo U.S. Patent 5,541,650, Yamazaki U.S. Patent 5,604,537, and Kawahara U.S. Patent 5,428,421. However, none of Kondo, Yamazaki, nor Kawahara discloses continuously changing an electronic shutter-ON time (exposure time) in accordance with a period, as recited in applicants' claim 1. The Office Action alleges that Kondo discloses changing a shutter speed "in accordance with the period." However, Kondo Fig. 2 discloses only changing a shutter speed from 1/60th of a second to 1/15th of a second. In Kondo, the shutter speed is changed to 1/15 second and remains there until changed. According to applicants' claim 1, the shutter speed is changed for every period of a multiple of two fields. Also, as recited in applicants' claim 1, the shutter-ON time is continuously changed in accordance with a period.

Nor do Yamazaki or Kawahara disclose what Kondo lacks. Neither Yamazaki nor Kawahara discloses changing a length of period of said electronic shutter function for every period of a multiple of two fields, and continuously changing an electronic shutter-ON time in accordance with the period, as recited in applicants' claim 1. Nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify or combine Kondo, Yamazaki, and Kawahara to disclose the above limitations. Although the references recite changing a shutter speed, none discloses any advantages of continuously changing the shutter-ON time. Nor do any of the

cited references contain any disclosure that would have motivated one of ordinary skill to modify or combine the cited references to disclose every element of applicants' claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Kondo, Yamazaki, and Kawahara are inadequate grounds for rejecting claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all claims 1-3 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 18, 2009



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Attorney Docket No.: 28951.5473